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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Garden City CHDO Awarded \$395,000

Helena, MT – November 1, 2006 – The Garden City CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization) has been awarded \$395,000.00 in HOME Program (HOME Investment Partnerships Program) grant funds by the Montana Department of Commerce.

Governor Brian Schweitzer supports the HOME Program as it offers solutions to the serious need for housing throughout the state for low-income individuals with serious mental health issues. “Building a residential treatment facility in Ravalli County will provide 24/7 supportive housing for adults with serious mental illness” Governor Schweitzer recently stated. “We must do everything we can to take care of the less fortunate individuals of our state and I applaud the Garden City CHDO as they undertake this much-needed project for the citizens of Ravalli County”. The Governor also expressed deep appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Garden City CHDO and other interested stakeholders within Ravalli County.

Department of Commerce Director, Anthony J. Preite agreed that the need to provide supportive housing and ongoing support to help close the gap in the continuum of mental health care in Ravalli County, is imperative. “Ravalli County is the fastest growing county in Montana”, Preite said. “Along with the 44% growth rate in the county, they have also seen escalating housing costs, increased homelessness and untreated mental illness”.

The Garden City CHDO has leveraged \$232,000 of other funding to be used with HOME funds to acquire property and build “West House” to address the urgent need of mental health care in Ravalli County. West House will provide eight beds of supportive housing for the very low income and mentally ill, including five SRO units of transitional, supportive housing and three residential crisis beds to provide critical need for crisis and suicide stabilization. Ravalli County residents whose household income is thirty percent or less of area median income will be helped by the “West House”.

The HOME Program is a federally funded program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).